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Malcolm X

Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little and later known as el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz, was a transformative figure in the American civil rights movement. His significance lies in his advocacy for Black empowerment, self-defense, and the promotion of Black nationalism.

Malcolm X's early life was marked by hardship and racial violence, which shaped his views on race relations in America. He became a prominent leader in the Nation of Islam, where he preached about the need for Black Americans to separate

from white society and build their own institutions. His powerful oratory skills and charismatic leadership helped the Nation of Islam grow significantly during the 1950s and early 1960s.

Unlike other civil rights leaders who advocated for nonviolent resistance, Malcolm X believed in achieving equality "by any means necessary," including self-defense. This stance often put him at odds with leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., who promoted nonviolent protest. However, Malcolm X's views began to evolve after his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1964, where he embraced Sunni Islam and started advocating for racial unity and human rights.

Malcolm X's assassination in 1965 cut short his evolving vision, but his legacy continued to influence the civil rights movement and the Black Power movement that emerged in the late 1960s. His autobiography, co-written with Alex Haley, remains a seminal work that has inspired generations of activists.

Malcolm X's impact on American society is profound. He challenged the status quo, inspired a sense of pride and self-worth among African Americans, and left an indelible mark on the struggle for racial equality.